

COSMETICS AND DERMATITIS. By Louis Schwartz, M.D., Medical Director, U. S. Public Health Service; Chief, Dermatosis Section, Division of Industrial Hygiene; Adjunct Professor in Dermatology, Georgetown University School of Medicine; Associate Clinical Professor in Dermatology and Syphilology. New York University College of Medicine; Consultant, Office of Price Administration, and Samuel M. Peck, M.D., Medical Director (R), U. S. Public Health Service; Associate Attending Dermatologist, Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York City; Attending Dermatologist and Syphilologist, Skin and Cancer Unit of the New York Postgraduate Medical School and Hospital of Columbia University; Diplomate of the American Board of Dermatology and Syphilology. Cloth. Price, \$4.00. Pp. 189. New York, London: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Book Department of Harper & Brothers, 1946.

The authors are competent authorities to discuss the subject covered by this book. The word, "cosmetics" is used by them rather broadly, including soaps and dentifrices, and there is little to criticize so far as statement of facts is concerned.

One wonders, however, to whom this book would be of particular interest. Certainly to the dermatologist worthy of the name there is nothing new, and reporting new chemicals as allergens is of comparatively little value since every case presenting itself offers a detective problem no matter how conversant the specialist is with the whole subject of cosmetics. For the general practitioner the problem is largely one of differential diagnosis and much of this he could long ago have gathered from textbooks on dermatology. If he will get really interested in this subject the book may prove of some value to him. The intelligent public has long been familiar with the problem of allergy in a confused manner and it is questionable whether the book will be of much further help to it. Surely the manufacturer has long had to face the problem, including the chemist particularly interested in the manufacture of these preparations.

Possibly all of these various groups may get a little enlightenment from this book, and in that sense coming from the Public Health Service it may fill a want. It is difficult for the reviewer to wax enthusiastic over a book of this type.

PREOPERATIVE AND POSTOPERATIVE TREATMENT. Edited by Lt. Col. Robert L. Mason, M.C., A.U.S., Cushing General Hospital, Framingham, Massachusetts, and Harold A. Zintel, M. D., Harrison Depart-

ment of Surgical Research, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; Assistant Surgeon, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Second edition, illustrated. Cloth. Pp. 584. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1946.

This book is a revision of the 1937 edition. Mason, Zintel, and their collaborators have done an excellent piece of work and this edition brings it up to date. The book is divided into two parts. The first part covers general considerations of pre- and post-operative management; the second part applies these principles to regional surgery and describes the surgical treatment of regional conditions as well. The first few chapters are devoted to preoperative considerations and the evaluation of the various factors which influence the operative risk. They discuss the conditions which require special therapy and outline their management. The chapters on water balance, acidosis and alkalosis are particularly well done and the reader is given a practical outline of their management both preoperatively and postoperatively. In general, not only the diagnosis, care, and management of everyday problems but the unusual complications as well are covered. The importance of many of the little things which we are likely to overlook in the care of the patient are stressed together with the more obvious considerations. The second part deals with the surgical treatment of regional conditions in an excellent manner. Physiology is considered from a wholly practical standpoint as a basis for therapy. Indications and contraindications for various surgical procedures are discussed and postoperative care is outlined in detail. The best current opinion is liberally interspersed with the author's views in a manner which gives the reader a broad view of the points under discussion. The information on penicillin and thiouracil is not quite up to date but in view of the changing picture in regard to these products the information contained in this book is sound. The book is easy to read and to use as a reference work. It is well indexed and there is an extensive bibliography. An appendix of findings in the blood and urine in health and disease constitutes a valuable source of quick reference and information. All surgeons should have the book in their libraries and individuals who are preparing for a surgical specialty should find it invaluable.

